NOSTALGIA

Troubles with water but nothing a good book couldn't solve

***MIKE PETTY** AND **JAMES MILNER** LOOK THROUGH THE **CAMBRIDGE NEWS** ARCHIVES AT SOME OF THE STORIES WE REPORTED ON THIS DAY IN THE PAST*

Wisbech canal sluice

Residents have peace from tankers – 1986

PEACE and quiet is on the way at last for hundreds of people living in the York Terrace and Sturton Street area.

For years, residents have complained about noise and nuisance caused by huge petrol tankers making frequent visits to the depot, saying their homes have been damaged by the vehicles turning into the narrow streets.

Now, the Department of the Environment has given the Phoenix Petroleum company three years to move its fuel storage and distribution depot from the middle of the area.

College opposes street widening – 1952

SIR, Twenty-five years ago, Magdalene College started a scheme which might have involved the widening of Magdalene Street and the removal of buildings opposite the college.

But it does not now contemplate the completion of the scheme and is now strongly opposed to the widening of the street and the demolition of the buildings on the west side.

The college would be strongly prejudiced if it should be divided by a street similar in character to the widened part of Bridge Street and would strongly object to such a change of character and loss of amenities in the neighbourhood.

Henry Willink, Master of Magdalene College

Water tower designed for different age – 1938

ELY water tower, on Cambridge Road, was built in 1853 and took water from the River Ouse until 1884/1885 when a deep well was sunk at Isleham.

It was designed for a population of only 6,000 – 2,500 fewer than now – and needed to be constantly topped up.

In case of war, when supplies of electricity or crude oil might be suspended, the tank would be totally inadequate to meet demand from the sugar factory, brewery and laundry. This would leave no water for fire-fighting purposes.

They needed a larger reservoir in a field adjoining the present tower, an inquiry heard.

Old building found at Guildhall – 1938

THE old Shire Hall on Cambridge Market Hill was erected in 1747.

At that time, the 14th-century Guildhall, which stood on the south of Butter Row, was under repair. This was pulled down in 1782 to be replaced by the Guildhall built by James Essex.

Now demolition has revealed a fragment of the medieval Guildhall. Two pieces of ancient oak carved with leaves are thought to date from 1386. They will be replaced in the new building.

Ely watertower

Navigation at canal a disgrace – 1930

SIR, At Wisbech, the canal is being bridged over, making it impassable to canal barges, and steps have been taken to fill it in at certain places.

For years, this navigation has been a positive disgrace. All new bridges should be designed with ample width and headroom.

It is vital that all waterways linking the eastern grain-growing area and the great brick-making district at Peterborough with the Midland canal system should be protected. Without

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